

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: EGEN, UN
SUBJECT: UN FINANCES: 64TH ECOSOC: ITEM 7 SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY: FUNDS FOR FIELD ADVISERS.

REF: A) UN DOCUMENT (CRPC.1/1) - DATAFAXED LANCETTI
IO/SCT, B) UN DOCUMENT A/33/43.

1. A CRITICAL SERVICE OF THE UN SECRETARIAT IN THE CONTEXT
OF THE 1979 UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
DEVELOPMENT (UNCSTD) IS THE PROVISION OF ADVISERS TO ASSIST
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE PREPARATION OF THEIR NATIONAL
PAPERS. ALTHOUGH THIS EFFORT GOT OFF TO A SLOW START,
REF A INDICATES THAT INTENSIVE ACTIVITY IS UNDER WAY AS
THE AUGUST 1 DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE PAPERS
APPROACHES.

2. FUNDS REQUESTED FOR THIS PROGRAM WERE ORIGINALLY BASED
ON A TOTAL OF 200 MAN-HOURS OF SERVICE IN 1978. THIS WAS
REDUCED TO 180 BY BUDGET DIVISION AND TO 100 BY ACABQ AND
FIFTH COMMITTEE, ON BASIS OF SLOW START IN 1977 IN WHICH
ONLY 36 OF 50 AUTHORIZED MAN-MONTHS WERE USED. FIFTH
COMMITTEE DISCUSSION HOWEVER, SHOWS THAT POSSIBILITY OF
INCREASE WAS CONSIDERED, WITH ACABQ CHAIRMAN MSELLE
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SUGGESTING THAT ANY REQUESTS BE MADE VIA FINAL PERFORMANCE
REPORT RATHER THAN IN UNFORSEEN EXPEDITURES PROVISION
(CF. DOC. A/C.5/32/SR.58,P.15) BUDGET OFFICE EXPECTED
SUCH A REQUEST. AT THE PRESENT TIME, UNCSTD SECRETARIAT
HAS REQUESTS TOTALLING 155 MAN-MONTHS, AND MAY STILL
RECEIVE REQUESTS BRINGING TOTAL TO 180 OR EVEN 200.

3. THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS THAT UNCSTD SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY SECRETARIAT BUDGET OFFICE, HOWEVER, THAT IN LIGHT OF DECISION 3(II) OF SECOND UNCSTD PREPCOM (REF B P.27), WHICH CALLED FOR ADVISORY SERVICES TO BE FINANCED AND OF EXISTING FUNDS, IT IS NOW IMPOSSIBLE FOR UN TO CONTINUE FINANCING THE FIELD ADVISERS NEEDED. THE PROGRAM WOULD, IN FACT, HAVE TO BE IMMEDIATELY CUT OFF SINCE BUDGET OFFICE CANNOT ANY LONGER ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PERMITTING OVERRUNS. BUDGET OFFICE (MILLS) THEREFORE MADE POINT TO SWEDISH DEL THAT SOME FORM OF ECOSOC RESOLUTION WOULD BE NECESSARY IF FIELD ADVISER PROGRAM IS TO BE CARRIED THROUGH TO DEGREE NOW ENVISIONED BY SECRETARIAT. SWEDES PREPARED DRAFT RESOLUTION WOULD CALL UPON SECRETARIAT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FROM CURRENT PROGRAM BUDGET.

4. MISSION HAS CONFIRMED WITH BUDGET DIVISION (DIAMOND, IN ABSENCE OF MILLS) THAT PASSAGE OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION BY ECOSOC WOULD ENABLE BUDGET DIVISION TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM ELSEWHERE IN UNCSTD BUDGET (EITHER 1978 OR 1979) AND HENCE PERMIT ADVISORY PROGRAM TO CONTINUE. RESOLUTION WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS STATEMENT, WHICH WOULD BE INCLUDED IN COMPENDIUM OF COSTS OF ECOSOC ACTIONS TO BE SUBMITTED TO GA. FINAL DECISION AS TO SOURCE OF REALLOCATED FUNDS COULD BE MADE BY BUDGET DIVISION, EITHER AT END OF YEAR OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BIENNIUM. GIVEN CONSISTENT STRONG USG SUPPORT FOR ADEQUATE CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS, MISSION REQUESTS, ON URGENT BASIS, DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO SUPPORT AND, IF ASKED, TO COSPONSOR DRAFT RESOLUTION.

5. TEXT OF SWEDISH DRAFT IS AS FOLLOWS:

- TAKING INTO ACCOUNT DECISION 3(II) BY THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS PARAGRAPH 68 OF ITS REPORT (A/33/43).

- HAVING REVIEWED THE SITUATION AS TO THE FINANCING OF TECHNICAL ADVISERS, AND NOTING THE PRESENT LACK OF FUNDS FOR THIS AGREED PURPOSE.

- CONSIDERS THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM THE REGULAR BUDGET TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR THE ELABORATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. YOUNG

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